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EDMONTON JANUARY 8, 2009 metronews.ca

**Celebrity Buzz**

**Bride Wars**  
star hates  
weddings  
pg 14



## Straight to trial for alleged escort-killer

**COURT** A man accused in the slaying of an Edmonton escort has waived his right to a preliminary hearing and will head straight to trial.

Matthew Todd Barrett, 25, was charged with second-degree murder in June after the body of 20-year-old Chantel Robertson was found buried in the backyard of his home.

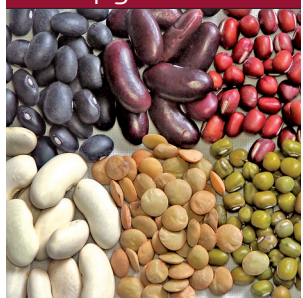
Friends and police scoured a Strathcona neighbourhood when she didn't return from an appointment on June 28.

Her body was discovered buried behind the home on 80 Avenue near 99 Street.

Barrett has not entered a plea, and will appear in Court of Queen's Bench Feb. 20 to set a trial date.

METRO EDMONTON

## Food pg 11



Beans pack healthy punch

## Homes pg 10

Eco-friendly choices underfoot



NHL

Welcome, Mats



Vancouver's Mats Sundin made his debut with the Canucks last night against the Oilers at Rexall Place. Sundin didn't have any points in Vancouver's 4-2 win. See story on pg 9

## Mountie charged in sex assault

JEFF CUMMINGS  
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**A Mountie in Fort Saskatchewan was charged with sexual assault Tuesday after a three-month investigation by a civilian-led team that looks into alleged police wrongdoing in Alberta.**

Mario Jimenez, a 36-year-old constable working with the RCMP in Fort Saskatchewan for 18 months, was arrested and charged with one count of sexual assault, said the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT).

Jimenez was off-duty at the time of the alleged offence that is believed to have happened in November 2008. ASIRT began its investigation "almost immediately" after the complaint was made, said the team's executive director, Clifton Purvis.

"In order to protect the identity of the victim, who

was known to the accused, further details of this incident or the case cannot be disclosed at this time," said Purvis, who didn't reveal much to reporters during a news conference yesterday.

Jimenez was relieved of patrol duties and placed in an administrative position at the beginning of the investigation, said RCMP spokesman Cpl. Wayne Oakes.

Oakes says Jimenez is still working in that position after being released on court-ordered conditions.

The offence is alleged to have occurred near Morinville, about 35 kilometres north of Edmonton, said Purvis. Purvis wouldn't comment on if the alleged offence happened in the community or in a rural location outside of town.

ASIRT teams investigate cases by combining current police officers with civilians with investigative experience.

## Activist takes Syncrude to task for the birds

VICTORIA HANDYSIDES  
victoria.handysides@metronews.ca

An Albertan environmental activist is taking oil giant Syncrude to court over the lives of 500 geese that met an oily fate last spring.

Jeh Custer, a representative from environmental group, the Sierra Club of Canada, has launched a law-

suit against the massive oil company, because he feels justice has not been served.

A flock of 500 migratory birds landed on the toxic Aurora mine tailings pond in April. All but a handful of the waterfowl became soaked in oil, sank to the bottom of the pond and died.

Though the recovered birds were flown to Edmon-

**"It's a regrettable failure for the government to not enforce their own laws."**

Jeh Custer, Sierra Club representative

ton where they were cleaned and cared for, most died.

Government officials, including then-industry minister Jim Prentice, promised the incident would not go

without penalty.

Custer said he's outraged at inaction by both the federal and provincial government, nine months after the incident.

"This provides further ev-

idence that pollution from tar-sands extraction is making the environment too toxic," he said. "It's a regrettable failure for the government to not enforce their own laws, meaning that ordinary Canadians must act."

He said his aim is to ensure that the ducks' death does not become the acceptable standard in the Alberta oilsands.



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# Derks

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**December drunk drivers down**

Last month, RCMP officers nabbed 481 drunk drivers, while 675 people were arrested in December 2007. **METRO EDMONTON**

# Local



## Hancock off to London

Education Minister Dave Hancock, left, will represent Canada at the Learning and Technology World Forum in London, England, on Jan. 12. He will also meet with British officials to discuss education topics.

METRO EDMONTON

## 30 ROCK

10:30 Tonight



## Citytv



# Angry mom to relive 'nightmare'

**VICTORIA HANDYSIDES**  
victoria.handysides@metronews.ca

### Peacha Atkinson is preparing to face her living nightmare all over again.

In a Court of Appeal decision released Tuesday, a man convicted of killing her 13-year-old daughter has won a new trial.

"I'm so angry," she said. "How dare he put us through this again."

Joseph Laboucan, 23, was found guilty in the brutal slaying of 13-year-old Nina Courtepatte, whose battered body was found on a west-end golf course on April 3, 2005.

Laboucan is serving a life sentence for his part in the killing. He has maintained his innocence from the day he was arrested.

Though Atkinson said she's confident the verdict will be the same if a new trial is scheduled, she's dreading the process, which she feels will be the most difficult yet. "It's going to be worse because more punches will be brought out this time. More artillery is going to be used this time."

Five people were tried in the horrific murder. Stephanie Bird, Michael Williams, Joseph Laboucan and a girl who was 17 at the time of the crime known only as "Buffy" were all handed life sentences for their part in the crime. The only person acquitted, Michael Briscoe, is also facing a new trial.

"I'm so tired," she said through tears. "I want it to be over. We're reliving our nightmare."



Rod Risling, branch manager for Assessment and Taxation, speaks to the media at city hall yesterday morning about the 2009 property-tax assessment.

## Lower property taxes for most

**VICTORIA HANDYSIDES**  
victoria.handysides@metronews.ca

**ASSESSMENT** Edmonton homeowners are about to find out how much more or less they'll be paying in property taxes this year, and why.

More than 300,000 property tax assessments were mailed out by the city this week to help prepare

homeowners for what to expect when the actual bills arrive, and to avoid confusion when tearing open tax envelopes in May.

Edmonton properties dropped roughly 10 per cent on average between July 1, 2007, and July 1, 2008.

As a result, more than 50 per cent of homeowners will be seeing a decrease in their property-tax bills this year.

"This is somewhat reactionary," city taxation branch spokesman Rod Risling said yesterday. "We value based on what's actually happened in history. We've got good information to base our assessments on."

The value of some homes in the city faced a significant drop this year, which could save homeowners some cash come tax time.

## Family searching for missing man

**VANISHED** The family of a man who vanished from a south Edmonton apartment in early October has spent \$3,000 to erect four billboards in four major cities in Western Canada.

Dylan Koshman, who is originally from Moose Jaw, went missing Oct. 11 after he got into an argument with a roommate, police said. The 21-year-old man hasn't been seen since he walked out the door.

METRO EDMONTON

metronews.ca

What's online today.

**Medicine** Scientists are developing tiny robots to fight disease from the inside at [metronews.ca/canada](http://metronews.ca/canada)

**Video** Experts predict Canada's economic fortunes will worsen in 2009 at [metronews.ca/canada](http://metronews.ca/canada)

### Lotteries

Lotto 6/49: 10, 13, 19, 35, 39 & 41. Bonus 4  
These results are not official.

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## Sex offender turns himself in Jan. 1

**WANTED** One month after starting to run from police, a wanted convicted sex offender from Edmonton began the year by turning himself in.

Dana Fash, 30, was released from custody in November, and put on statutory release.

He allegedly breached conditions to abstain from drugs and alcohol. When arresting officers arrived at his halfway house on Dec. 2, Fash slipped out the back door.

On New Year's Day, Fash turned himself in to authorities in Vancouver.

**METRO EDMONTON**

## News in brief

**MEMBER'S BILL** Alberta Liberal justice critic Kent Hehr is challenging all MLAs to support a private member's bill to give police more power in seizing street-gang owned property after a fatal triple shooting in Calgary. The bill will allow a peace officer to seize a vehicle operated by a person charged with an offence under Section 94 of the Criminal Code, unauthorized possession of a firearm in a motor vehicle. **METRO CANADA**

# Winter fest warms up

**JEFF CUMMINGS**  
jeff.cummings@metronews.ca

**Edmontonians have been put in a deep freeze over the last few weeks, but organizers behind a winter festival on Alberta Avenue are expecting thousands to chill in warmer weather during the weekend-long event beginning Saturday.**

Environment Canada says temperatures will reach into the positive single digits by Saturday, just in time for the

annual Deep Freeze: Byzantine Winter Festival put on by Arts on the Ave, a group devoted to change the troubled neighbourhood into an Edmonton arts hub.

Christy Morin, a director with Arts on the Ave, says more than 1,200 people flocked to 118 Avenue for the first festival last year and it was only held for one day.

"As soon as it warms up, we'll have a lot of people out," said Morin.

"This year, we're adding outdoor curling and outdoor

skating to reach out to a variety of Edmontonians."

The festival's centrepiece will feature ice sculptors from the Sculptors' Society of Alberta's One Block Challenge competition.

The festival will also have "Winter Light" warming tents that will offer musical and theatrical performances.

"This event shows once again that Alberta Avenue is full of artists," said Morin.

For more information on the festival, check out [www.artsontheave.org](http://www.artsontheave.org).



From left: Calvin Malaka, Caley Suliak, Jon Paterson and Mark Henderson, rehearse a scene yesterday from *Knighty Knight: A Mummings Play*, in preparation for the second annual Deep Freeze: Byzantine Winter Festival this weekend.

BEN LEMPHERS/FOR METRO EDMONTON

## Alberta leads in personal loans

**KRISTA SYLVESTER**  
Metro Canada

Shamefully admitting the fact that she has unpaid personal loans isn't easy, but this personally indebted Calgarian isn't alone.

Carolyn, too embarrassed to give her last name, owes more than \$5,000 to friends and family, some debts dating back as far as 10 years ago.

"Well, I try to pay them all back, but I know some

need it more than others and I try to pay them back first. I feel bad, but it's hard to catch up once you owe even one person," she said.

A survey released by Investors Group yesterday showed that 72 per cent of Albertans have borrowed between \$500 and \$5,000 from a friend or family member.

That is the highest in Canada, but 26 per cent of Albertans said they haven't been fully paid back.

## Flipper ends \$11 contest for home

An Edmonton man who was planning to sell his house for \$11 to a lucky and worthy candidate has pulled the plug on the contest because of a lack of entries.

House flipper David Stockburger says he was hoping to get more than 2,000 entries by the end of January for the contest, but with only close to 650 entries from candidates wanting the home at 11720 95A St., he said he



David Stockburger halted his contest for a renovated home.

entry fee.

Stockburger was going to flip the once-condemned house that he paid \$120,000 for.

"It was the quantity, rather than the quality, of entries that made it clear to us that this just wasn't going to fly," said Stockburger on his blog.

Stockburger says he plans to return the entry money to candidates as soon as possible.

**JEFF CUMMINGS**  
/METRO EDMONTON

was forced to cancel it.

Each submission had to include an essay on why the candidate deserves the home, along with an \$11

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Taxes & fees: \$290

Cozumel via Toronto

**Occidental Grand Cozumel • 4 1/2 ★**

All-Inclusive  
Deluxe rm.  
Feb. 20 • 1 wk.  
Upgrade to the Royal Club luxury rm. for \$200 per person

**\$1199**

Taxes & fees: \$305

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Deluxe rm.  
Jan. 15, 24 & 29 • 1 wk.

**\$1469**

Taxes & fees: \$192

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**No ransom request yet for kidnapped Canadian**

Canada has not received a ransom demand for a special UN envoy who was abducted in Niger last month, Foreign Minister Lawrence Cannon said yesterday. Robert Fowler, a former Canadian ambassador to the United Nations, and his aide Louis Guay were kidnapped Dec. 14. **REUTERS**

5

# Canada



## Red Bull's language barrier

Red Bull Crashed Ice, a race in which skaters in full hockey gear hurl themselves down a very steep, 550-metre chute of ice, has drawn the attention of Quebec's language police. Scheduled to take place in Quebec City on Jan. 24, the race has no French name. The language police have suggested calling the contest "patinage de descente extrême (extreme descent skating)" but have not yet made an official request. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

## B.C. lays nation's first polygamy charges

KRISTEN THOMPSON  
Metro Canada



**Two members of the alleged polygamist community of Bountiful, B.C., including leader Winston Blackmore, were arrested yesterday in what B.C.'s attorney general says is the first time Canada's polygamy law has been enforced.**

Blackmore, 52, and James Oler, 44, have been charged with having multiple wives, which is against the law under Section 293 of the Criminal Code.

It's alleged Blackmore has 20 wives and Oler has two.

"I think this situation is

**"I think this situation is intolerable. I don't think right-thinking Canadians want this situation to exist."**

Wally Oppal, B.C. attorney general

intolerable. I don't think right-thinking Canadians want this situation to exist," Attorney General Wally Oppal said.

"We've always felt that there has been exploitation (in Bountiful)," he added. "The question was whether, given our laws, we were in a position to proceed (with charges), and we determined we were."

The RCMP has been investigating allegations of

polygamy and exploitation in the small religious settlement near Creston for 20 years.

In 2005, Oppal appointed an independent special prosecutor, Terrence Robertson, to determine whether a prosecution was warranted.

He said it's now up to the courts to decide whether the men's rights to religious freedom will trump the laws prohibiting polygamy.

## Soldier facing murder charges released on bail

**PETAWAWA, ONT.** Canadian Armed Forces Capt. Robert Semrau, charged with second-degree murder in last fall's shooting death of a severely injured Taliban fighter in Afghanistan, was released yesterday from custody.

"I am satisfied on the balance of probability ... that custody is not necessary," Military Judge Lt.-Col.

Louis-Vincent d'Auteuil told the hearing.

After being held for eight days, Semrau showed obvious relief.

**TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

## Canadian soldier dies in Afghan attack

**AFGHANISTAN** A Canadian soldier was killed and three others were injured in southern Afghanistan yesterday when a roadside bomb detonated near their armoured vehicle, military officials said.

Canada has now lost 107 soldiers since it first sent forces to Afghanistan in 2002. **REUTERS**



Jenny Peto, at centre in blue jacket, speaks to media behind the Israeli Consulate in Toronto yesterday after being released by police.

## Israeli consulate protesters released

**TORONTO** The eight Jewish Canadian women who were arrested while holding a protest inside the Israeli consulate have been released.

The RCMP arrested and handcuffed the women, who were staging a sit-in protest against the ongoing Israeli assault on Gaza inside the consulate in Toronto. The women were held briefly inside a paddy wagon, but were not charged and were released.

A paddy wagon with the women inside drove past a

group of chanting protesters outside the consulate just before 1 p.m.

Included in the group were Israeli peace activists, filmmakers, the president of Science for Peace and a variety of students.

"Israel purports to represent all Jews worldwide and these atrocities are not being committed in our name," said spokesperson and filmmaker Cathy Gulkin, standing outside of the consulate.

**TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

## Iraq war resister given the boot

**DEPORTATION** When Kimberley Rivera shipped out to serve in Iraq with the U.S. Army in the fall of 2006, she saw herself rebuilding homes, feeding the hungry and helping children.

Barely three months into her 15-month mission, Rivera, a gate guard in Baghdad, had had enough. A young mother herself, she was haunted by the sight of children crying, forever traumatized by the war.

On leave for two weeks, Rivera decided she couldn't go back to war. In January 2007, she packed up her family from Fort Carson, Col., and drove to Canada, hoping to obtain refugee status on humanitarian and compassionate grounds.

Rivera, the first female U.S. Iraq war resister to seek refuge in Canada, was told by the Immigration and Refugee Board yesterday morning that she and her family must leave the country by Jan. 27 or face deportation.

The decision will force Rivera, 26, to uproot her family — her husband, Mario, and their three children, including six-week-old daughter Katie — from their Toronto home. In the



Kimberley Rivera cradles her newborn baby Katie yesterday during a media conference. Rivera is the first female U.S. Iraq war resister to seek refuge in Canada. She was told yesterday that she and her family must leave the country by Jan. 27 or face deportation.

U.S., she faces the prospect of jail for desertion.

**TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

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## OLG reaches settlement with scratch-ticket 'winner'

**LOTTERY** Unlucky lotto "winner" Thomas Nofall may not have won the jackpot, but the 27-year-old will take home some cash from the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corp.

OLG offered Nofall an apology and an undisclosed financial settlement yesterday after a printing error on his lottery tickets led him to believe he had won \$135,000.

Nofall and his lawyer met with lottery officials yesterday at OLG headquarters in Toronto. After the meeting, Nofall told re-

porters he is happy with the apology.

"I didn't get my dream, so I'm going to keep playing Lotto 6-49," Nofall said. "I can keep hoping, can't I?"

The gaming corporation compensated Nofall not because of the misprint, but because an OLG employee told him he could collect his winnings despite the error, OLG chief executive Kelly McDougald said yesterday.

"It was a very unique situation with Mr. Nofall," said McDougald.

**TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

## Court to tackle Wal-Mart closing

**HEARINGS** The country's top court will weigh Wal-Mart's claim that it did not close a Jonquière, Que., store to crush a fledgling union, as well as a new "responsible journalism" defence to defamation lawsuits during the winter session that starts this month.

Wal-Mart employees laid off in Jonquière in 2005 will have their case against the U.S. retailer heard Jan. 19. The workers claim the company killed their jobs after they exercised their Charter right to organize themselves into a collective bargaining unit in 2004.

The court will also look at a case that expanded the common law defences available to journalists to fight defamation suits.

An Ontario Court of Appeal ruling said that in the interest of the public's right to know, even if the truth of an article is not proven, there must be a right to a defence of "responsible journalism."

**TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

## News in brief

**SENTENCE** Owing creditors millions of dollars and convicted for contempt of court, a Richmond Hill, Ont., couple yesterday had their lengthy jail sentences reduced to just seven days each.

**EXTENSION** The inquiry into the Mulroney-Schreiber affair will not wrap up until the end of the year after commission head Justice Jeffrey Oliphant was given more time to write his final report.

**COLD CASE** More than 38 years after a 12-year-old girl went missing in the Northern Ontario town of Kirkland Lake, her cousin has been charged with her killing, CBC News Online reports. Ontario Provincial

Police confirmed yesterday that Barry Vincent Manion, now 60, has been charged with the first-degree murder and abduction of Katherine May Wilson.

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**



Japan's space agency will launch a satellite later this month to monitor greenhouse gases around the world, officials said yesterday. The Greenhouse Gases Observing Satellite (GOSAT), to be launched on Jan. 21, will enable scientists to calculate the density of carbon dioxide and methane from 56,000 locations on the Earth's surface. **REUTERS**

# World



## Bird flu warning issued

China issued a bird flu alert yesterday after a woman died of the virus, the first such death in the country in almost a year, and closed poultry markets for disinfecting in a province surrounding Beijing. The 19-year-old woman died of the H5N1 virus after gutting nine ducks. Officials say the death appears to be an isolated case. **REUTERS**

## U.S. backs Gaza 'ceasefire'

**Israeli aircraft and tanks pounded the Gaza Strip yesterday and troops battled Palestinian guerrillas as U.S. backing of a proposed truce raised hope of an end to the 12-day-old offensive.**

"We believe a ceasefire is necessary," Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said, adding that she was pressing Israel to move forward with an Egyptian proposal backed by Europeans.

Israel's assault resumed

fiercely after a first, brief pause to let Gaza's 1.5 million people stock up on supplies.

With both the outgoing administration of George W. Bush and president-elect Barack Obama speaking out on the need for peace, officials said Israel had agreed with the "principles" of the Egyptian deal and would send an envoy to Cairo to discuss how it might be put into practice. That may yet take time.

However, Israeli minis-

### Ottawa announces aid

- Canada announced yesterday that it will provide \$4 million in humanitarian aid to

help ease the crisis in Gaza and repeated calls for an "immediate" ceasefire.

ters put off a decision on whether to launch a new phase of the war by storming Gaza's urban centres.

Hamas said it was looking at the Egyptian plan, which addresses Israel's demand that Hamas be prevented from rearming through smuggling tun-

nels from Egypt.

A further 20 people were killed yesterday, including three children. The strikes took the total of Palestinian deaths to at least 658 — by far the bloodiest episode in decades in the conflict between Israel and Palestinians. **REUTERS**

## China lawyer makes bold demand for open books

**ACTIVISM** A high-profile Chinese lawyer demanded yesterday that the government open its books to the public in an unusually direct display of the legal activism that the Communist Party sees as a growing threat to its rule.

Yan Yiming, an attorney who has made his reputation taking on listed companies that misled investors, presented an application to the Finance Ministry headquarters de-

manding that it publish details of its 2008 expenditure and 2009 budget.

China's ruling Communist Party discloses the barest outline of its spending plans to a submissive parliament every year. Yan wants the government to live up to vows of transparency and accountability — especially with so much of the nation's faltering economic fortunes now resting on state spending plans. **REUTERS**

## U.S. Senate Dems moving to seat Blagojevich's appointee

**POLITICS** In a sudden switch, U.S. Senate Democratic leaders began talks yesterday about swearing in former Illinois attorney general Roland Burris, nominated by embattled Gov. Rod Blagojevich, to take president-elect Barack Obama's place in the Senate.

The turnaround came a day after Burris was barred from the Senate chamber when he arrived to take the oath of office.

Senate Democrats originally said Blagojevich's appointment last month of Burris was tainted since

the governor is accused of having tried to sell the seat to the highest bidder.

Under pressure from party loyalists, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said this week there was room for negotiations.

A senior Democratic aide said they were seeking an "amicable agreement."

The Illinois legislature is considering impeaching Blagojevich, who was arrested by the FBI on Dec. 9 and charged with conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud and solicitation of bribery. **REUTERS**

## Singapore Broken hearts on display



Creators of the Museum of Broken Relationships exhibition, Drazen Grubisic and Olinka Vistica, are shown at the M1 Singapore Fringe Festival 2009. The museum, which opened in Singapore yesterday, is a travelling display of items related to failed relationships donated by people who live in the cities the museum has visited. The exhibit has everything from romantic letters, to photographs, to soft toys, to fur-lined handcuffs. But it also includes unusual exhibits, such as a prosthetic leg donated by a war veteran who fell in love with his physiotherapist.

## Motorbike-helmet chaos comes to a head in Nigeria

**AFRICA** Police in Nigeria have arrested scores of motorcycle taxi riders with fruit shells, paint pots or pieces of rubber tire on their heads to avoid a law forcing them to wear helmets. Motorcyclists complain helmets are too expensive, and some passengers refuse to wear them, fearing they will catch skin disease or be put under a black magic spell. **REUTERS**

## 30 years since fall of Khmer Rouge

**CAMBODIA** Thousands of survivors of the Khmer Rouge "Killing Fields" marked 30 years yesterday since the fall of Pol Pot's ultra-Maoist regime, blamed for 1.7 million deaths. A handful of aging movement leaders are being tried at a joint Cambodian-UN tribunal three decades after their disastrous attempt at creating an agrarian utopia. **REUTERS**

### News in brief

**TRAVEL** Angola's capital Luanda is the world's most expensive place for foreigners, followed by Tokyo, a public relations director for London-based human resources consultant ECA International said yesterday. A recent ECA survey compared a basket of 125 consumer goods and services often purchased by expa-

triate in more than 270 locations. Delays at Luanda's port and damaged infrastructure caused by war continued to inflate the price of goods and services typically used by foreigners, the survey showed. A strong yen has made Tokyo the second-most expensive city in the world, up from the 13th position a year ago. **REUTERS**






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# Comment & Views

## Comment

# Obamania ... for now

## Home&Abroad

Andrew Cohen

Canada & world insight

In the National Museum of American History, the repository of the U.S.'s past, the curators are not waiting for the inauguration of Barack Obama on Jan. 20.

They have already entered his name and face in its gallery of presidents, a permanent exhibition subtitled "A Glorious Burden." There he is, the smiling 44th president of the United States, the last in a glorious — or inglorious — line stretching from George Washington to George W. Bush.

There is that sense of anticipation in Washington, the imperial city seized with Obamania. It is as if the torch has already been passed; in stores and restaurants of F Street, it is all Obama, all of the time.

In the boutique of the Smithsonian Institution — in America they find the money to tell their story in a national history museum and a national portrait gallery — a clutch of new biographies of Mr. Obama are for sale.

A block from the White House, a large souvenir shop offers nothing but Obama memorabilia. Visitors are greeted by life-size cutouts of the man and a replica of the majestic desk that once belonged in the Oval Office of John F. Kennedy (from which his toddler, John Jr., was famously photographed peeking out from a front panel. Now, in doctored images, Mr. Obama's daughters are peeking out.

The president-elect's face is everywhere — on buttons, cuff links, pens, hot sauce, bookmarks, pins, golf balls, champagne

glasses, dish towels, paperweights, T-shirts. This week newspapers are running stories of Mr. Obama vacationing in Hawaii. They report breathlessly he has a great torso.

It is all very silly, but it shows the prominence of the president in politics, and in the zeitgeist, too. As singer Andy Kim once said of Richard Nixon, "he's everybody's daddy for awhile."

Then again, for a country enfeebled at home and encumbered abroad, facing epochal challenges, the prospect of change is a tonic for an ailing soul.

Inaugurations have long been occasions in America, which is always interested in the next new thing. They are a celebration of democracy as much as an affirmation of partisanship, which is why there is that parade, which goes on for hours, followed by all those extravagant balls.

With that comes

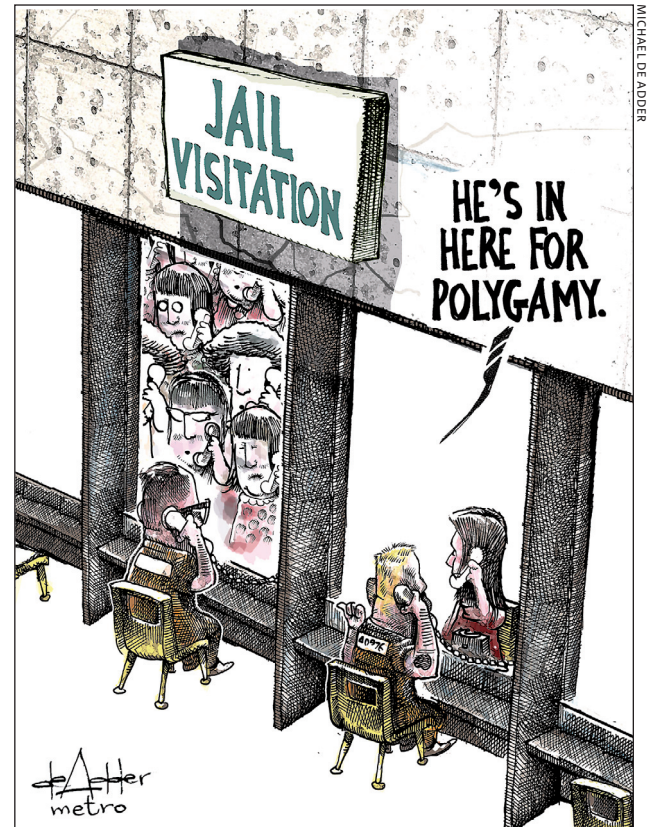
the usual commercialism, which has been around since Washington took the oath of office in 1789. To inaugurate is to commemorate. To commemorate is to sell. No one sells better than Americans.

The inscriptions on all those faux medallions do not say that Barack Obama was the first president born outside the 48 states or that he is the first sitting senator to take office since JFK. It is that Barack Obama is the first black American elected president. It will be the first line of his obituary. The second line, though, will say what he did with it.

The worse things get, the greater the expectations of the new president. His popularity will never be greater than it is today, as he will learn when the parade ends and cheers fade on Jan. 20.

He has been dealt a difficult hand, his burden is great, and it won't always be glorious.

Andrew Cohen teaches journalism at Carleton University. He is the author of *Extraordinary Canadians: Lester B. Pearson*.



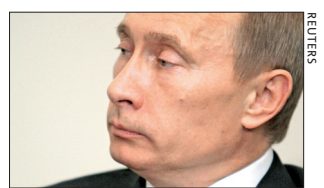
## Russia pumps PR muscles in gas conflict with Ukraine

Russia has shown in its gas-price conflict with Ukraine it has learnt some lessons in how to handle the media since being portrayed as the aggressor during a similar dispute in 2006.

Moscow reduced gas supplies to Kiev on Jan. 1, as it did three years ago, cutting flows to European countries which receive gas through Ukraine. But this time, it has fared better in the public relations battle.

Since the dispute in 2006 the Kremlin has hired one of the world's largest public affairs firms, Omnicom.

In 2006, the European Union loudly condemned Moscow and openly questioned Russia's reliability as a supplier. This time Russian



Russian PM Vladimir Putin

Prime Minister Vladimir Putin has led Moscow's denunciations of Ukraine's actions during the gas dispute, and Gazprom has launched a website to explain its side of the row — [www.gazprom-ukrainefacts.com](http://www.gazprom-ukrainefacts.com).

A chief Gazprom's official has also toured European countries, giving briefings and interviews in which he accuses Ukraine of stealing gas meant for Europe.

TOM PERRY/REUTERS

## Views

# Systemic barriers hurt minorities, business



Wendy Cukier

Diversity is a competitive advantage in the global economy. Canada, with more than 200 ethnic groups speaking more than 100 different languages every day, is considered an inspiration for the rest of the world. But we cannot rest on our laurels. Just two weeks ago, former Ontario chief justice Roy McMurtry and former MPP Alvin Curling released a report on the roots of violence concluding that racism is alive and well. Systemic barriers and the absence of role models can crush the hopes and aspirations of young people. Their

use of the "R" word was deliberate. It makes us bristle, but gets our attention.

Systemic barriers facing visible minorities are not just a problem in "those" neighbourhoods. They affect our governments, our universities and our corporate boardrooms.

The business case for diversity is compelling. In spite of the economic downturn, our aging population and declining birthrate mean that by 2011, all work force growth in Canada will come through immigration. Attracting and retaining immigrants is essential to corporate success. And research shows diversity is good for business — matching the workforce to the communities served helps win the hearts and wallets of consumers.

In 2006, visible minorities were more than 40 per cent of the residents of Toronto and Vancouver; 22.2 per cent of Canadians and more than 16 per cent of residents in Montreal, Ottawa and Edmonton. But visible minorities, and women, are vastly under-represented in leadership roles. Legislatures, city halls, universities and images of wealth and power dominating the media are dominated by white males.

Many of the barriers to advancement stem from thoughtlessness rather than intention. Most jobs, for example, are never advertised. Employers rely on word of mouth and personal networks. Exclusion from these informal networks, is a huge barrier.

Dr. Margaret Yap, from Ryerson University's Diversi-

ty Institute, co-authored a survey of middle managers in large Canadian corporations and found that visible minorities (and women) are more likely to believe they are held to higher standards of performance and have less mentoring than their white colleagues.

Images of leaders offer role models. They shape goals, expectations and performance. We must watch the gap between our aspirations for a just society and the reality. But clearly the glass is half full. In a short time, Barack Obama has offered a transformative image of leadership, success and power. And we can only hope that more will follow.

Wendy Cukier is the associate dean of the Ted Rogers School of Management at Ryerson University, and the founder of Ryerson's Diversity Institute.

## Quote of the Day

**"There is no concern in Quebec City that the name is in English. We still shop at Canadian Tire and not Canadian Pneu."**

— Daniel Gagnon, director of communications for Quebec City tourism, on complaints raised over the lack of a French name for the Red Bull Crashed Ice wild winter-sport race to be hosted by the city.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number — street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.



**'Irrelevant' Penthouse earns little, owner says**  
Social networking company FriendFinder Networks Inc., the parent of iconic men's magazine Penthouse, says the magazine is "irrelevant" and contributes little financially to earnings, but the company says it won't shut down the magazine. **REUTERS**

# Business

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

## Outsourcing firm's head steps down

Ramalinga Raju visited Canada four years ago to talk about how Indian outsourcing firm Satyam Computer Services was using Canada to gain access to the huge U.S. market.

Yesterday the chairman of India's fourth-largest software services exporter resigned, saying Satyam's profits had been massively inflated over the years — that caused the company's stock price to plummet nearly 80 per cent. Raju claimed that about \$1 billion US, or 94 per cent, of the cash on the company's books was "non-existent."

In Canada, Satyam's clients include four of the big five banks. With offices in Toronto, Montreal and Calgary, it also does business in the health-care sector. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

## Smart Times, they are a changin'



LG Electronics unveils the world's first market-ready touch watch phone with 3G video telephone and GSM quadband network capabilities at a consumer electronics show in Las Vegas yesterday. The phone features a Flash interface, MP3 player, voice calling, text messaging and text to speech.

## 'Terrible start' to '09, top economists say

**The economy is in for a rough ride through the first half of the year and will see little or no growth in 2009 as the recession takes hold, top economists from Canada's largest banks said.**

The economy will also continue to shed thousands of jobs and the unemployment rate will move higher as fallout from the global financial crisis takes its toll.

The comments were made by a panel of leading domestic bank economists at a Economic Club of Canada event in Toronto yesterday.

"The first half of 2009 looks pretty terrible for Canada," said Don Drummond, chief economist at

**"There's a lot of bad news to get through over the next six months."**

Avery Shenfeld

Toronto-Dominion Bank.

Drummond's comments came ahead of key data due tomorrow that is expected to show the Canadian economy shed 22,000 in December. That would follow a loss of 70,600 jobs in November.

The slowdown in the global economy is expected to keep weighing on the domestic economy.

Canada sends about 75 per cent of its exports to the United States, leaving

it extremely vulnerable to the growing economic crisis there.

"There's a lot of bad news to get through over the next six months," said Avery Shenfeld, senior economist at CIBC World Markets.

Economists at Bank of Nova Scotia and Royal Bank agreed, with Royal Bank's Craig Wright noting the economy will see no growth at all this year.

The comments come less than a month after the Bank of Canada unexpectedly cut its key overnight rate by 75 basis points to a 50-year low of 1.50 per cent, and said for the first time that the economy was entering a recession.

**REUTERS**

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## Watchdog wants 911 upgrade

**CELLPHONES** The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission is expected to give cellphone companies until February 2010 to change their system so dispatchers can locate the origin of a 911 call, CBC News Online reports.

It will make a formal decision in February. A number of people have died after making 911 calls from cellphones because emergency dispatchers could not tell where the person was. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

## Phone made from recycled bottles

**TREND** Motorola Inc. unveiled a cellphone made of recycled water bottles, hoping to cash in on the trend for environmentally friendly products. The W233 Renew will be showcased at a consumer electronics show in Las Vegas. **REUTERS**

## Cheap oil tempts traders to play high-stakes game

**DROP** Crude oil prices fell 12 per cent yesterday, the largest percentage drop in seven years, after a U.S. inventory report showed a glut in the market.

But the perception there will be a rebound in demand during the second half of the year has some traders playing a high-stakes game — chartering supertankers to purchase and store huge volumes of inexpensive oil that can be sold on the futures market at a healthy profit.

The decline was blamed largely on a U.S. report

## Giants of the sea

- The largest supertankers, if stood on their end, would each be as tall as the Empire State Building in New York.
- The carriers hold about 2 million barrels of crude.

that showed commercial crude inventories last week increased by 6.68 million barrels.

That's more than four times higher than the consensus expectations of analysts.

**TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

## In brief

**LAYOFFS** Planned layoffs at U.S. firms eased in December from the previous month's seven-year high, but they were up an astounding 275 per cent annually as the recession continued to hammer the job market. A report by Challenger, Gray &

Christmas notes heavy job-cutting could continue through mid-2009 until more economic stimulus arrives. The 1,223,993 job cuts in 2008 are the largest since 2003, when there were 1,236,426 job cuts. **REUTERS**

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**Boldin may not play**

Arizona Cardinals receiver Anquan Boldin rested his injured hamstring yesterday and said he's not sure if he will play in the divisional playoff at Carolina Saturday. Boldin hurt the hamstring during Arizona's victory over Atlanta last Saturday. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

# Sports

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA



## Trade, trade rumours in Raptorland

The Toronto Raptors traded little-used Hassan Adams and cash to the Los Angeles Clippers yesterday for a future second-round draft pick, while websites such as hoopsworld.com alluded to a potential deal with the Dallas Mavericks for Josh Howard, left. The rumoured trade would send Andrea Bargnani and Anthony Parker to Dallas. Bargnani, meanwhile, scored 25 points last night as Toronto beat Washington 99-93. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**



Buffalo's Andrew Peters reacts after being bitten by Jarkko Ruutu Tuesday.

## Ruutu gets two for biting

**NHL** Senators forward Jarkko Ruutu was suspended two games without pay yesterday for allegedly biting Buffalo Sabres forward Andrew Peters in Tuesday's contest between Ottawa and Buffalo.

The incident occurred in the first period of the contest, which was eventually won by the Sabres, 4-2.

During a skirmish near the players' benches, Peters had a glove in Ruutu's face and the Buffalo forward came away from the gathering shaking a gloveless hand.

Peters complained to officials on the ice and was seen on the Sabres' bench mouthing that Ruutu bit him. Peters continued to make that claim after the contest.

Ruutu told reporters after the game that while Peters' gloved hand ended up in his mouth, he did not bite him.

Ruutu was not penalized on the play, but the suspension was handed down only hours after Ruutu had an over-the-phone hearing with NHL senior executive vice president of hockey operations Colin Campbell.

The suspension covers contests with the Boston Bruins tonight and the New York Rangers on Saturday, and he will not be eligible to return to action until Jan. 13 when the Senators face the Carolina Hurricanes.

As a repeat offender, Ruutu will also forfeit \$31,707.32 in salary, which is automatically added to the Players' Emergency Assistance Fund.

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**

### SCOREBOARD

NHL	
YESTERDAY'S RESULTS	
Vancouver	4 <b>EDMONTON</b> 2
Montreal	6 N.Y. Rangers 3
TONIGHT'S GAMES	
N.Y. Islanders	at Calgary
Ottawa	at Boston
Atlanta	at New Jersey
Minnesota	at Philadelphia
Toronto	at Montreal
Carolina	at Florida
Dallas	at Detroit
Pittsburgh	at Nashville
Chicago	at Colorado
Tampa Bay	at Phoenix
Anaheim	at Los Angeles

# Canucks double up on Oil

### NHL RESULT

Canucks 4 Oilers 2



**THE SKINNY:** The debut of Mats Sundin in Vancouver silks was the story coming in, but Steve Bernier grabbed the spot-light with goals 12 seconds apart in the second period as the Canucks prevailed in the proverbial four-point game at Rexall Place.

**THE QUOTE:** "It's not a perfect situation coming back in the middle of a season like this," Sundin said. "It's a big challenge for me and I have to work to get back to where I want to be. The only way to get to where you want to be is to start playing games."

**THE BIG PLAY:** After putting Vancouver ahead 2-1 at 17:20 of the second period, Bernier took a goalmouth feed from Alex Burrows and buried it behind Dwayne Roloson to make it 3-1 at 17:32.



Oiler fans welcome Mats Sundin to Rexall Place last night.

### THE PRODUCTION LINE:

Vancouver's third line of Bernier, Burrows and Ryan Kesler combined for eight points. Bernier got his pair after going 12 games without a goal. Burrows opened the scoring with his ninth of the season.

### COLE HOT:

After a slow start, Erik Cole is rolling for the Oilers. His goal to cut Vancouver's lead to 3-2 was his fourth in the last six games.

### NOT SO MILD?:

Ales Hemsky missed his fifth straight game with what the team dubbed a

"mild concussion" suffered against Nashville. Dec. 28. The Oilers leading scorer won't be ready against San Jose on Friday, either.

**THE NEXT GAME:** The Oilers host the Sharks Friday at Rexall Place.

**ROBIN BROWNLEE/ FOR METRO EDMONTON**

## NHL Habs take Manhattan



Marc Staal of the Rangers and Roman Hamrlík of the Canadiens collide at Madison Square Garden last night. Montreal won 6-3.

# Another all-star tap for Souray

**NHL** Canucks goalie Robert Luongo, Oilers defenceman Sheldon Souray and Calgary Flames forward Jarome Iginla were among 15 players added to the NHL's Western Conference all-star team yesterday.

Other veterans included were the Detroit Red Wings' Pavel Datsyuk and Nicklas Lidstrom, the Dallas Stars' Mike Modano, the St. Louis Blues' Keith Tkachuk, the Colorado Avalanche's Milan Hejduk, the Columbus Blue Jackets' Rick Nash and the Phoenix Coyotes' Shane Doan. First-timers will be the San Jose Sharks' Dan Boyle, the Minnesota Wild's Niklas Backstrom, the Nashville Predators' Shea Weber and the Los Angeles Kings' Dustin Brown.

Despite struggling with injuries, Luongo will make his third all-star appearance, as will Souray.

Iginla will appear for the fifth time.

The Western starters:



Souray and Jarome Iginla are headed to the all-star game in Montreal.

goalie J.S. Giguere, defenceman Scott Niedermayer and centre Ryan Getzlaf of the Anaheim Ducks and defenceman Brian Campbell and forwards Patrick Kane and Jonathan Toews of the Chicago Blackhawks.

Additions to the Eastern team will be announced today.

The game will be in Montreal Jan. 25.

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**



# Metro Homes



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EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

## 'Green' carpets gain ground

### Experts advise against wall-to-wall carpets



Some carpets are much more eco-friendly than others.

**SONYA PRECENKO**  
 for Source Media Group


**While for a truly green choice, the green living experts advise against wall-to-wall carpeting and recommend area rugs instead, there are increasingly eco-friendly choices becoming available underfoot.**

"Consider alternatives to wall-to-wall carpeting. Use washable area rugs when possible ... Carpet tiles are a great way to minimize waste because you just replace tiles as needed and the rest remain intact," writes Lori Bongiorno, author of *GreenGreener-Greenest: A Practical Guide to Making Eco-Smart Choices a Part of Your Life*.

#### A NATURAL PROGRESSION

"Buy carpets and rugs made from recycled or natural materials such as wool (ask your retailer to make sure any wool products haven't been treated with toxic moth repellents), alpaca, or hemp," notes Bongiorno.

Gillian Deacon, author of *Green for Life: 200 Simple Eco-ideas for Every Day*, also has tips about choosing wool carpeting in her green guide. "If you have to get carpet, choose 100-per-cent wool with jute backing, or any backing that is sewn on rather than glued," says Deacon. "Use carpet tacks rather than adhesives to secure your carpeting."

"The carpets we have in certain parts of our house

are pure wool, and while they were more expensive than synthetic, they have never given me a headache the way some off-gassing carpets do."

#### EASIER BEING GREEN

The Carpet and Rug Institute (CRI) is making buying greener carpeting easier with its Green Label and Green Label Plus programs. These programs rate carpets with very low volatile organic compound (or low-VOC) emissions. They test for and certify low emissions from carpet, carpet cushion and adhesive.

"Today, indoor air quality is an important environmental consideration, especially since we spend approximately 90 per cent of our time indoors," says CRI president Werner Braun.

"Architects, builders and specifiers can have full confidence that Green Label and Green Label Plus carpets are desirable, attractive, green building products. They can rest assured they are purchasing the very lowest emitting products on the market."

#### A CLEAN BREAK

In Alberta, the Clean Calgary Association has published a *Green Building and Renovation Guide — Residential Products and Resources*. It is available online for downloading off the association's website.

The guide was "compiled to assist Calgary's residents to find building materials that are free of toxins; contain recycled contents; have

### Online options

**For more information, check out the following websites:**

- [greengreenergreenest.com](http://greengreenergreenest.com)
- [penguin.ca](http://penguin.ca)
- [gilldeacon.ca](http://gilldeacon.ca)
- [carpet-rug.org](http://carpet-rug.org)
- [cleancalgary.org](http://cleancalgary.org)
- [shawfloors.com](http://shawfloors.com)
- [mohawk-flooring.com](http://mohawk-flooring.com)
- [ecobydesign.com](http://ecobydesign.com)

a lower environmental impact on conventional building products; and that are generally less harmful to both the environment and human health."

Clean Calgary Association lists several types of carpets in its guide: recycled content carpet, recycled pop bottle carpet and wool carpet.

#### HEY JUTE

The company EcoChoices features undyed, organic wool area rugs and carpeting. Their pure all-natural chemical free untreated wool carpet has natural adhesive from the rubber tree, jute secondary backing and hemp/cotton backing.

Wool yarns are locked into place with a natural adhesive that is derived from the rubber tree. This further helps to lock the stitches in place and prevents slippage of the yarn. This adhesive is completely biodegradable and non-toxic. Jute, a hardy Earth-friendly fibre producing plant, is used for the secondary backing.

EDITED FOR LENGTH BY METRO

## Home inspection horrors: If these walls could talk

**After almost a year of living in their new townhouse in Uxbridge, Ont., Libby McCready and her husband figured there was little wrong with their home.**

As neither Libby nor her husband had much knowledge or experience with home building or repairs, they hired home inspector Brian Daley to have a look.

"We wanted to make sure we caught everything but we're not handy," says McCready. "Brian found a number of things we never

would have noticed. The stuff he found came as a surprise."

The most significant defect Daley found was that the clothes dryer hadn't been vented properly, thus was not blowing outdoors but into insulation, which could have eventually caused a moisture and mould issue. He also noted that the plumbing to a toilet in a seldom-used second bathroom wasn't on the right angle for flushing, that a promised rough-in for an electrical fan for

### Not the whole story

• While builders provide a pre-delivery inspection (PDI) for buyers to note defects, registered home inspector Brian Daley says these are

more geared to cosmetic issues, such as nicks in drywall and whether the right flooring, cabinetry, etc. are provided.

the fireplace was not completed and that attic insulation had been flattened in places.

Armed with Daley's report and digital photos, the McCreadys filled out the warranty forms they

signed before buying by the one-year deadline and as a result, those issues are covered. If they hadn't submitted the report in time, their builder would not have been obligated to repair the defects.

"Although everything turned out fine, I'd never move in to a brand-new house again without having a home inspection done right away," says McCready. "I would have rather had a comprehensive list of the problems from the start, as we'd lived here for almost a year and some of the issues could have caused problems. The inspection was totally worthwhile."

Unfortunately, most new homebuyers mistakenly "believe their new house is

perfect," says Daley, when that's seldom the case. Daley and Charters Kenny are both registered home inspectors (RHI).

Other home inspectors in Ontario have also started offering warranty inspections in addition to their regular inspections of resale homes.

Daley says his company finds an average of 30 defect items during a warranty inspection and Sweeney says his list usually includes 20 to 30.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES



**Food for thought**

Whole grain, trans-fat free and low fat items led the charge in terms of products that were eaten by Canadian consumers on a weekly basis with a growing trend towards organic products continuing into 2009, according to the latest Eating Patterns In Canada (EPIC) report from The NPDP Group. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

**11**

# Food

***"Is it a pea, a bean, or a pulse? Pulses are the dried edible seeds of legumes and includes beans, peas (such as chickpeas) and lentils."***

Barb Holland/for Metro Canada

## Not a nut

Peanuts are also a legume, not a nut, despite its name.



EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

# Lean and mean: Lentils and beans

## À la carte

**Barb Holland**

Metro Food Writer

The cake and cookies are finished and the decorations tucked away for another year.

Healthy eating, hand-in-hand with being more physically active, are high on everyone's "to do" list after Jan. 1. So, it's back to business as we tighten our financial belts as well as try to re-tighten the one stretches around our waists.

What's economical, packs a healthy punch in the nutrient ring and is convenient? Canned beans, peas and lentils.

Beans, peas and lentils are a high source of both soluble and insoluble fibre as well as a source of B vitamins, calcium, iron,



Canned beans, peas and lentils can be a bit salty, but a drain and a rinse quickly removes most of the sodium. Toss in salads, soups, casseroles or puree into a dip or spread.

**phosphorus, potassium and zinc. In addition, they're low in fat, cholesterol free and the richest**

**source of vegetable protein.**

**With the exception of soybeans, beans alone do**

**not contain all the essential amino acids to be classified as a complete protein. But when comple-**

**mented with a grain (rice, bread or pasta), a seed, nut or a dairy or egg protein, they become complete.**

**Keep a variety of canned beans in your pantry for frugal, fast and healthy meals. This vegetarian recipe will satisfy your hunger as well as deliciously fulfil your protein needs.**

### Mediterranean Tomato, Lentil and Spinach Soup

Serve this hearty vegetarian soup with crusty whole wheat bread for a complete meal. I like the sharp and slightly salty addition of freshly grated good Parmesan cheese, but omit if serving to vegans. Makes 8 cups (2 L), 4 servings.

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 tbsp (15 ml) olive oil
- 2 stalks celery, chopped
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, mined
- 1 tsp (5 ml) dried basil leaves
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) each dried

- oregano and thyme leaves
- Pinch each dried rosemary leaves, crumbled and pepper
- 3 cups (750 ml) vegetable stock
- 28 oz (796 ml) can diced tomatoes, including juice
- 19 oz (540 ml) can lentils, drained and rinsed
- Juice of 1/2 lemon
- 3 cups (750 ml) fresh baby spinach leaves
- Freshly grated Parmesan cheese, optional

#### METHOD:

Heat oil in large saucepan over medium heat. Add onion, celery and garlic and cook until softened, about 5 minutes. Stir in seasonings, tomatoes, lentils and lemon juice. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer, covered for 5 to 10 minutes.

Stir in spinach leaves until wilted, about 30 seconds. Serve with Parmesan, if desired.

Barb Holland is a professional home economist and food writer who believes in shopping locally and in season.

# When life gives you lemons ...

The Complete Canadian Living Baking Book, the newest offering from the trusted Canadian Living Test Kitchen and Elizabeth Baird, is the gold-standard, go-to book that Canadian bakers can depend on.

Filled with mouth-watering recipes and instructive step-by-step photographs of baking techniques, the book is written specifically for the home baker. It begins with a special introductory chapter on ingredients, equipment and techniques and progresses through seven recipe chapters, each centred around a specific baking category. From cookies to cakes to pies to spoon desserts, there's something for every skill level and palate.

Canadian Living offered Metro a recipe for these unbeatable treats:

### Lemon Cheesecake Bars

A middle cream cheese layer makes these a change — for the better — from the usual lemon squares.

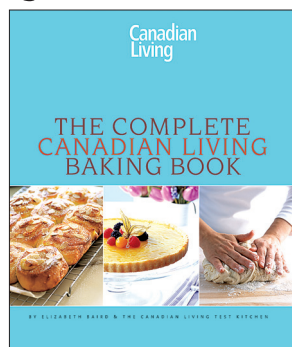
#### INGREDIENTS:

- 4 eggs
- 1 1/4 cups (300 mL) granulated sugar
- 2 tbsp (25 mL) finely grated lemon rind
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) lemon juice
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp (5 mL) baking powder
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) icing sugar
- Cheesecake layer:**
- 1 pkg (8 oz/250 g) cream cheese, softened
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) granulated sugar
- 1 egg
- Base:**
- 30 lemon social tea cookies
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) butter, melted

#### METHOD:

Line 13- x 9-inch (3.5 L) metal cake pan with parchment paper or grease; set aside.

**BASE:** In food processor, whirl cookies to make 2 cups (500 mL) crumbs; pulse in butter until moistened. Press into prepared pan. Bake in centre of 325 F (160 C) oven until firm,



about 12 minutes. Let cool in pan on rack.

**CHEESECAKE LAYER:** In bowl, beat cream cheese with sugar until smooth; beat in egg. Spread over base; set aside.

In bowl, beat eggs with sugar until thickened. Beat in lemon rind and juice, flour and baking powder until smooth; pour over cheesecake layer. Bake in centre of 325 F (160 C) oven until edges are set and lightly browned, about 35 minutes. Let cool in pan on rack. (Make ahead: Remove from pan; wrap and refrigerate for up to 5 days or overwrap in heavy-duty foil and freeze for up to 1 month.) Cut in-

## On the web

### Need more?

- You've got lemons, now try oranges: Orange Sour Cream Bundt Cake, another fabulous recipe from The Complete Canadian Living Baking Book, is available at metronews.ca.



to bars; dust with icing sugar.

#### Tips:

- Hold an offset or rubber spatula as parallel to the surface as possible as you spread the filling evenly over the base.
- Let bars cool completely before cutting.
- Lift uncut bars out of pan using parchment paper liner as handles.
- Place on cutting board.
- With long knife, trim off edges to neaten up.



Remember to let bars cool completely before cutting for the neatest possible squares.

- A ruler is helpful so all pieces are the same size.
- For 13- x 9-inch (3.5 L) metal cake pan, cut crosswise into quarters. Cut each quarter in half

- lengthwise, then cut crosswise into fifths to make 10 squares.
- Keep a wet, wrung-out cloth handy to wipe knife clean between cuts.



France's first lady Carla Bruni-Sarkozy has been awarded \$57,500 in damages after she sued a fashion company for adorning a canvas shopping bag with a 1993 nude photo of her. Lawyers for Bruni-Sarkozy have suggested her monetary award would be given to charity. **PEOPLE.COM**

**Carla Bruni-Sarkozy wins lawsuit**

# Style



## Woodsy look is being embraced

Paul Bunyan, the supersized he-man, is a fashion icon. As unlikely as it sounds, the mythical lumberjack's black-and-red check jacket has been a big trend on catwalks around the world. But this time around, Ralph Lauren took the rugged masculine checks and turned them into evening gowns, sometimes mixing chic plaid shirts with feathered skirts. Now it's the streetwear retailers who have created new shapes for the lumberjack jacket in sharp, belted trenches and smart peacoats. Left: belted trench, \$158, Gap.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE COLACINO, ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

# The necklace makes a statement

Adorn décolleté with larger than life embellishments

**Literally and figuratively — the necklace is big this year. Throughout recent seasons, designers have supersized handbags into steamer trunk proportions. And they've elevated the ordinary stiletto to stratospheric heights.**

Now, after achieving such overwhelming bulk with accessories like bags and shoes, they have turned their attention to jewellery — in particular, the necklace.

Leading international brands including Burberry, Lanvin and Louis Vuitton went for the jugular this fall, burdening women's décolleté with glass chunks resembling massive precious and semi-precious stones.

This is costume jewellery gone berserk. So pack away your simple strand of pearls, your heirloom chokers and discreet pendants. You can bring them out another day.

"This is no season for the faint of heart," says Oriella Stillo, owner of Accessity in Toronto, Ont.

"You've got to have confidence to wear these necklaces," she says.

These muscular necklaces riff on jewellery's many traditional roles — as an objet for self-decoration, as an amulet to ward off evil and as a striking symbol of personal wealth. They are statement pieces.

While, on the surface, the times may not seem right for such showiness, Stillo insists that's not the case. "During the Depression of the 1930s big Bakelite and Lucite jewellery was popular. Women needed something to make them feel good," she says.

No one is fooling anyone — which is why the ostentatious necklace with rocks as big as baseballs still works even in this hard economic

era. Stillo says she retails big necklaces as inexpensively as \$250. "What dress can you find that will give you that wow factor?" she asks.

Jewellery hasn't been this exaggerated since the go-big-or-go-home '80s.

**"This is no season for the faint of heart ... You've got to have confidence to wear these necklaces."**

Oriella Stillo, owner of jewelry store Accessity

tempting to fool people into believing you had social cachet you just didn't possess.

But these days the necklaces are conspicuously costume. They are not vintage or replicas. The glass stones are larger than life and created in smoky neutral colours, clear or black.

As well, the elements of the necklace are often

During that power decade, jewellery was big and bold and closely replicated the real thing. Back then, by wearing big fake jewels you were at-

Banana Republic Carolyn Brooch necklace, \$124.



crudely held together with unusual materials — gros-grain ribbon at Lanvin for example, or heavy metal chains and indelicate hardware popular at Louis Vuitton and Burberry.

They are ferocious these glass tigers. They've got bite. But everyone knows they're just for show.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Actor Salma Hayek's bold statement necklace is an example of the go-big-or-go-home '80s-inspired jewelry trend.

## Style File

**Kim Elbo**

kim.elbo@gmail.com

### ask kim

**I prefer running outside as oppose to treadmills, but I dread when it rains because I can't stand when my feet and socks get wet. What do you suggest I do to fix this problem?**

Running shoes are primarily made out of mesh materials to make the shoe lighter, but I suggest looking for outdoor trainers that have a Gore-Tex lining (some actually say that on the shoe) to help keep the moisture out.

E-mail your style questions to kim.elbo@gmail.com.

Vancouver's Kim Elbo has a passion for fashion. Here she shares the latest style tips.

## Gear to get you motivated



**Pull Over**  
Designer: Nike  
Shop: Nike Store  
Address: Various Locations  
nike.com



**Old School**  
Designer: Nike  
Shop: Nike Store  
Address: Various Locations  
nike.com



**Hoody**  
Designer: Lululemon  
Shop: Lululemon  
Address: Various Locations  
lululemon.com



**Starter**  
Designer: asics  
Shop: The Run Inn  
runinn.com



**Full Zip**  
Designer: Peak Performance  
Shop: Peak Performance  
peakperformance.com



**Pro**  
Designer: Mizuno  
Shop: Running Room  
Address: Various Locations  
runningroom.com

## Workout Wear

You know you made a new year's resolution to workout more and eat less, so motivate yourself by going out and buying a couple of items for the gym. If you like to cover up, here are three great looks for indoor or outdoor workouts. When you're out shopping for motivation, look for details in the clothing like all-around 360 reflectors for night time running. For shirts, make sure there is a bit of ribbing so that the shirt falls away from your body.

**tip:** Heat can sap the elasticity from your fitness clothes. To avoid this menace, wash your fitness clothes in cool water, and always opt to drip dry. (mamashealth.com).

## Running Shoes

There are three things to look out for when buying a proper running shoe: The first is to buy a shoe that fits your proper arch type, the second is to make sure the shoe is at least a half size bigger than your regular street shoe (this is to compensate for swelling as your feet heat up) and the third is to make sure you can run with comfort (so sufficient cushioning is needed).

## GlobalStyle

**Kenya Hunt**

Read Kenya, exclusively at metronews.ca/globalstyle



Jonas Brothers going to the Golden Globes

If the Golden Globes run a little bit longer this Sunday, you can blame The Jonas Brothers. Music's hottest trio has been added as presenters for the telecast, along with Hayden Panettiere and Martin Scorsese. [IMDB.COM](#)

# Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN LISK, DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA



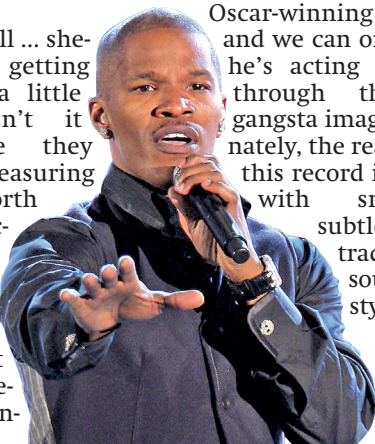
**It's a girl!**  
Jennifer Garner and husband Ben Affleck have welcomed their second daughter. The baby was born Tuesday in Los Angeles. [PEOPLE.COM](#)

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

# Intuition not paying off

**Jamie Foxx**  
**Album:** Intuition  
**Label:** Sony  
**Rating:** ●●●½

**LISTENING TO MALE** R&B stars calling their buddies “dawgs” and their women ... well ... she-dawgs is getting more than a little irksome. Isn't it about time they stopped measuring their self-worth in Gucci accessories or the length of time they can hold an erection? But these tired re-frains contin-



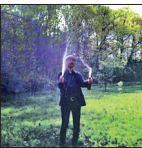
Graham Rockingham /for Metro Canada

**MusicReviews**  
music@metronews.ca

ue to raise their ugly heads in the front end of Jamie Foxx's third album, Intuition. The Lil Wayne collaboration Number One is particularly obnoxious. Foxx is, however, an Oscar-winning actor and we can only hope he's acting his way through this sex gangsta image. Fortunately, the rear end of this record is loaded with smoother, subtler, more traditional soul stylings.

**Andre Ethier**  
**Album:** Born on Blue Fog  
**Label:** Blue Fog/Sonic Unyon  
**Rating:** ●●●½

**UNTIL NOW** Andre Ethier's best work has been with his former band The Deadly Snakes. Since then he's released a few solo albums, all of which have been decent, but nowhere near as good as his newest effort. This isn't the most accessible disc, but with a range that echoes Dylan (Cop Killer), blues (Infant King) and a haunting Leonard Cohen-with-classical-instruments number (By The Stables), this is easily Ethier's most eclectic and inspiring.



Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

**Ketch Harbour Wolves**  
**Album:** Dead Calm Horizon  
**Label:** Independent  
**Rating:** ●●●½

**WITH THE NATIONAL** garnering so much praise these days, it was only a matter of time until a similar sounding Canadian act got noticed. Ketch Harbour Wolves, a Toronto-based five-piece with roots in Nova Scotia (their band is named after a small East Coast town) have forged the perfect mix of brooding passion, infectious melodies and rich, layered instrumentation. While it's not perfect — a couple tunes are a bit sluggish — it's definitely a promising debut.



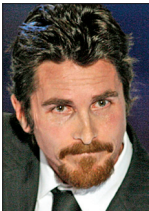
Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

# Darkness reigns

**L.A.** Batman sequel The Dark Knight soared away with five People's Choice Awards last night including favourite movie and on-screen pairing for Christian Bale and the late Heath Ledger to kick off Hollywood's awards season.

Country singer Carrie Underwood, who rose to fame on TV talent show American Idol, was another big winner, hauling in three People's Choice Awards for favourite female singer, country song — Last Name — and star under 35 years old.

Adam Sandler was named funniest male star, Reese Witherspoon favourite female movie star and Kate Hudson top leading lady among winners in more than 40 categories covering film, TV, music and even online entertainment.



Christian Bale

Sandler, Witherspoon and Hudson all echoed a familiar theme of the night by saying the honours were special because they were voted on by fans.

The Secret Life of Bees was the winner of best film drama and favourite independent film and animated Wall-E was the No. 1 family film.

In the TV arena, House was named favourite TV drama and Two and a Half Men was best TV comedy.

Ellen DeGeneres was named best TV talk show host and Dancing With the Stars was the people's pick for No. 1 competition or reality TV show.

REUTERS



For a complete list of People's Choice Award-winners visit [metronews.ca/entertainment](#)

# Eminem, 50 songs hit radio, web

**MUSIC** There's still no solidified release dates for upcoming albums from Eminem and 50 Cent, but new music from both rappers has emerged in the past 24 hours.

Eminem's Crack a Bottle, which features 50 Cent as well as his mentor Dr. Dre, leaked online Tuesday; an earlier version without the guest appearances had leaked in November, much to the dismay of Eminem.

His first album in more than four years, Relapse, is expected this spring.

Meanwhile, a new 50 Cent song, I Get It In, debuted Monday. Its parent album, Before I Self Destruct, was originally due Dec. 9 but was delayed while the rapper continued recording.

REUTERS

# IntelleVision



**Rick McGinnis**

Read it at [metronews.ca](#)

See complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and purchase tickets at [metronews.ca/movies](#)

ED	C	B	S	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	2	CFRN	239 318	etalk	Hollywood	ER "Separation Anxiety"		CSI: NY (HDTV)		Grey's Anatomy (N)		News (N)
	3	KHQ	- 370	News	Be-Millionaire	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel-Fortune	Name Is Earl	Kath & Kim (N)	The Office	30 Rock	(11:01) ER
	4	CBXT	- 307	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	The Nature of Things		Doc Zone (HDTV) (N)		CBC News: The National	The Hour	
	6	KREM	- 372	News (N)	Hollywood	The Doctors (N)		CSI: NY (HDTV)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	Eleventh Hour	
	7	CKEM	241 347	Law & Order: SVU		Murdoch Mysteries		Ugly Betty (N)		30 Rock	30 Rock	Your City
	8	CITV	240 339	ET Canada	Entertainment	The Unit		Life (N)		The Office	Billable Hours	News Hour
	11	OMNI	- -	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News		News		The Simpsons	King	Metropia
	12	CBXFT	119 705	Virginie (SC)	Une journée	À la recherche de Champlain		M pour musique (N) (SC)		Le Téléjournal et Les Nou		TJ Alberta
	13	KXLY	- 371	4 News at 6	4 News at 6:30	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	Ugly Betty (N)		Grey's Anatomy (N)		Practice
	16	KAYU	- 373	(6:15) College Football FedEx BCS	National Championship -- Florida vs. Oklahoma.					Postgame	Two/Half Men	News (N)
news	19	CHTV	- -	The Insider (N)	El News	Name Is Earl	Kath & Kim (N)	Movie				News (N)
	22	KSPS	- 374	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Educating Spokane		Poirt		New Tricks		Soundstage (N)
	24	WTVS	- 364	Ask This Old	Michigan	The Human Face "Beauty"		Red Green	Summer Wine	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N)	
	15	CBCL	502 -	CBC News: The National		The Nature of Things		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		Nature-Things
	21	TWN	505 398	(5) EarthWatch One		EarthWatch One		EarthWatch Two				
sports	27	CNN	500 500	Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)				Larry King Live		Cooper 360
	54	CTVN	501 391	CTV Newsnet		News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News
	70	BNN	504 508	Squeeze Play		Market Call		Headline	Market Call	Commodities	Business News	Squeeze Play
	20	TSN	400 400	(5:30) College Football FedEx BCS	National Championship -- Florida vs. Oklahoma.					SportsCentre	Golf: Long Drive Champ.	
	23	net	408 418	NHL Hockey New York Islanders at Calgary Flames. (HDTV) (Live)					Sportsnet Con.	Sportsnet Connected	Best-Sports	
family	47	SPEED	417 406	Pinks -- All Out		Wrecked	Wrecked	Pinks	Pass Time	Pinks -- All Out		Pinks -- All Out
	94	SCORE	410 403	Poker Million Pound Challenge.		Score Tonight		Hardcore Hockey Talk		Final Score	Final Score	Final Score
	9	EDACC	267 351	Truth, Duty, Valour		Supernanny		Eleventh Hour "Frozen"		(10:01) Private Practice (N)		Help TV
	14	YTV	552 543	Drake & Josh	iCarly	Scorpion	Prank Patrol	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Adrenaline Proj	Prank Patrol	Falcon Beach
	17	TREE	553 546	Little Bear	Maggie-Beast	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie	Max & Ruby	Babar	Backyardigans	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!
	42	TOON	555 545	Ben 10	Johnny Test	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6teen	6teen	Misadventures	Futurama	The Critic
	45	FAM	557 541	Zoeys 101	Life Derek	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School
	-	TVA	121 714	TVA 18 heures	Le Cercle (SC)	Petit monde de Laura Cadieux		Messmer, le fascinateur (N)		Claudine Mercier		TVA 22 heures
	18	CMT	575 583	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Dallas Cheerleaders		Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba
	25	A&E	615 520	The First 48 (HDTV) (N)		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48
cable variety	26	MMM	571 581	AC/DC	Revival	Tommy Lee	Where You At	Celebrity Wrestling		Party of Five		Tommy Lee
	29	FOOD	603 561	Unwrapped	Secret Life of	Family	Glutton	Ace of Cakes	Ace of Cakes	Challenge		Unwrapped
	31	SHOW	617 522	Wife Swap		The Outer Limits		Love-Death	Love-Death	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	Starsky-Hutch
	32	DISC	520 505	Connected (N)		MythBusters		Daily Planet		Deadliest Catch		Human Toolkit
	33	SLICE	601 562	Last 10	Last 10	The Biggest Loser		ET Canada	Matchmaker	The Biggest Loser		Trading Sp
	34	W	602 567	Style by Jury	Style by Jury	Will & Grace	Friends	Divine Design	House	Confidential	Save Us-House	Divine Design
	35	TLC	521 560	LA Ink "Funny Farm"		LA Ink (HDTV) (N)		LA Ink (HDTV)		LA Ink "Funny Farm"		LA Ink
	36	BRAVO	620 523	Johnny Tootall! (2005, Drama)	Adam Beach, Alex Rice.			Law & Order		Without a Trace		Follow-Dream
	38	SPIKE	628 584	TNA IMPACT! (HDTV) (N)				TNA IMPACT! (HDTV)				MANswers
	40	HIST	522 506	Deep Wreck Mysteries		NCIS "Shalom"		Ancestors	Ancestors	Lost Worlds		Engineering
	41	COM	626 547	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	VIP
	43	SPACE	627 528	Rabbit Fall	Rabbit Fall	Ghost Hunters International		Stargate SG-1		Star Trek: Next Gener.		Deep Space 9
	44	WPCH	294 650	Friends	Friends	The Recruit ★★ (2003, Suspense)	Al Pacino.			Family Guy	Family Guy	Seinfeld
	46	OLN	411 457	Mantracker		Bounty Hunter	Dakar Rally	Survivorman		Mantracker		Bounty Hunter
	48	TROP	619 525	What Happen?	What Happen?	Make or Break	Naked Fashion	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Raymond	Family Guy
	50	STAR	621 527	Girls Gone Good		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ	etalk	The View (HDTV)		TBA
	52	HGTV	600 564	The Fix	Disaster DIY	Home to Flip	Real Renos	Holmes on Homes		The Fix	Disaster DIY	Home to Flip
	65	TLN	700 800	(6) La Notte di Pasquino		Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez	George Lopez	The Sopranos (SS)		Paid Program
	92	APTN	269 350	Suaangan	Wapos Bay	By the Rapids	renegadeexpress	The Gods Must Be Crazy II ★★★ (1990, Comedy)	Nixau.			Rez Rides
	93	VISION	261 394	When Harry Met Sally... (1989, Romance-Comedy)				Poltergeist: The Legacy		When Harry Met Sally... ★★★ (1989)		
	100	MTV	581 566	The Real World		True Life "I'm Deaf"		MTV Live	After	Next	Mom & Dad	True Life
	101	MM	570 580	Brooke Knowles	Brooke Knows	Gossip Girl		Video on Trial	Video on Trial	Brooke Knows	Brooke Knows	MuchTopTens
	102	CPAC	512 396	(6:30) Headline Politics			Revue	Question Period		Prime-Politics	Headline Politics	
	103	VIVA	526 507	The West Wing		Passion	Homicide File	Psychic Inv.	Encounters	Judging Amy		Lost in Austen
	106	RDI	126 730	Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal (SC)		Le Journal RDI	Le National	Le Téléjournal

# critics'corner

## The Office

When Oscar (Oscar Nunez) informs Michael (Steve Carell) that the office must spend a \$4,300 cash surplus or lose it in the next year's budget, Michael opens the floor to suggestions, causing factions to break out and pitting office mates against one another in their efforts to get what they want. Dwight (Rainn Wilson) takes Angela and Andy (Angela Kinsey, Ed Helms) to Schruete Farms to work on their wedding plans. 10 PM on CITV KHQ



## Eleventh Hour

We've met people who were cold, but this is ridiculous. When a woman's body is discovered on the beach on the hottest day of the year — frozen solid with no signs of thawing — Jacob (Rufus Sewell) is called to investigate. We're not sure, but we're willing to implicate a passing fishing boat and a giant koozie. 11:01 PM on KREM





Charmed actress Alyssa Milano is engaged to top Hollywood agent, David Bugliari. The pair has been together for over a year, and Bugliari proposed to the actress just before Christmas, according to usmagazine.com. **FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK**

**Milano headed for marriage**

## Celebrity Buzz

### I didn't know marriage was fake: Spencer

**MARRIAGE** Spencer Pratt acknowledges that his marriage to Heidi Montag was fake — but only because he was uninformed, in-touchweekly.com reports.

"I didn't even know you have to legalize a wedding," claims Spencer, who tied the knot with Heidi, 22, in a nonbinding ceremony on Nov. 19 in Mexico. "I thought growing up, you say 'I do' and you're married."



METRO NEWS SERVICES

### Rihanna sporting rock on finger

**RELATIONSHIP** R&B sensation Rihanna may be ready to tie the knot with singer Chris Brown.

The pair — who has never publicly confirmed their relationship — performed at Elton John's New Year's Eve bash in London, where Rihanna was spotted sporting fingerless leather gloves that made it easier to see a massive diamond ring on her wedding ring finger.

Brown allegedly popped the question over the New Year, according to Britain's the Sun newspaper.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

### Weight loss no big deal: Kristen

**HEALTH** Even though 3rd Rock From the Sun alum Kristen Johnston dropped a 60 lbs., her pal Sarah Jessica Parker didn't get why everyone made such a fuss, usmagazine.com reports.

"She said to me, 'It's so weird all this press is happening to you because you're the only actress I've ever met who doesn't have a body issue at all,'" Johnston, 41, told usmagazine.com at the NYC premiere of Bride Wars.

The six-foot star was spurred to lose weight after and change her eating habits suffering a burst ulcer last year.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

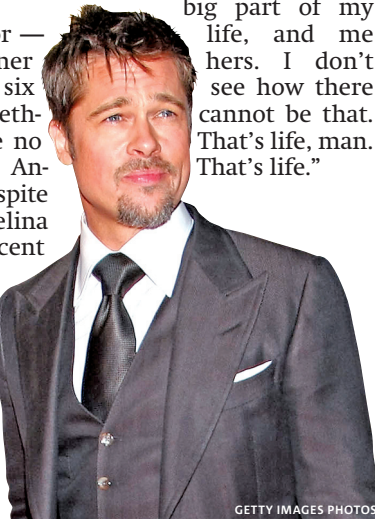
## No bad feelings between Jen and Angie, Brad says

**RELATIONSHIP** Brad Pitt says ex-wife Jennifer Aniston is a "sweetheart," reports femalefirst.co.uk.

The 44-year-old actor — who lives with partner Angelina Jolie and the six children they raise together — insists there are no bad feelings between Angelina and Jennifer, despite Jennifer calling Angelina "very uncool" in a recent interview.

The website quotes Brad as saying: "Listen, man, Jen is a sweetheart. I think she got dragged into that one, and then there's a second round to all that Angie

versus Jen. It's so created. Jen and I still check in with each other. She was a big part of my life, and me hers. I don't see how there cannot be that. That's life, man. That's life."



GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Brad also denied claims he and Angelina started dating while he was still with Jennifer, insisting reports they began a relationship on the set of 2005 movie Mr. and Mrs. Smith were false.

He added to W magazine: "What people don't understand is that we filmed Mr. and Mrs. Smith for a year. We were still filming after Jen and I split up. Even then it doesn't mean that there was some kind of dastardly affair. There wasn't. I'm very proud of the way that it was handled. It was respectful."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

## George and Paris together?

**RELATIONSHIP** Life & Style and In Touch are both claiming the "down to earth" Paris Hilton has been cozying up to George Clooney, msn.com reports.

Seems the typically brunette-preferring, two-time Sexiest Man Alive, 47 — who split from Las Vegas cocktail waitress Sarah Larson in May — and Hilton, 27 — who called it quits with "best friend" Benji Madden in November — were twice spotted out together in Los Angeles last month.

The first sighting took place on Dec. 19 at the Whiskey

Bar, where George and Paris supposedly chatted, downed drinks, flashed their pearly whites and maintained constant eye contact, msn.com says.



"They were laughing and smiling at each other throughout the night," a spy tells L&S, with another adding to In Touch, "They were gazing into each other's eyes and smiling and laughing."

The following night, the implausible pair was reportedly seen breaking bread at Dan Tana's with an eclectic group of stars and friends.

"Paris was flirting big-time," an eyewitness recalls to In Touch. "And George was soaking it up." **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

## Baby stress for Jennifer and Marc

**MARRIAGE** Solo trips to Las Vegas, public appearances without their wedding rings — what's up with Marc Anthony and Jennifer Lopez? According to those who observed them on a holiday vacation to Puerto Rico, nothing, people.com reports.

The couple, who left for their romantic jaunt on Dec. 26, rang in 2009 poolside at La Concha Hotel, reports the Puerto Rico newspaper El Voce.

People.com says that on their trip, the couple also attended the gubernatorial inauguration and had a cozy dinner together at Marmalade restaurant in Old San Juan.

What's more, a reliable source

tells People magazine that Lopez, 39, and Anthony, 40, are seriously considering purchasing property at Trump's International Golf Club Puerto Rico, where they took a tour over the holiday.

While both

their reps tell the magazine that the couple is "great," insiders indicate that their marriage isn't perfect. "They have been having problems, like in any marriage," says one. "They've been arguing."

The likely cause? The growing pains that come with raising 10-month-old twins Max and Emme, people.com said.

"The marriage is experiencing frustrations because of the added stress of the twins," says another source familiar with the situation, "but they will work things out. They love each other, and that will dictate what happens. I don't think divorce is in the picture."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



## Britney gives up control

**PEOPLE** It's official: Britney Spears cannot take care of herself. According to Access Hollywood, court papers have been filed giving her father, Jamie, permanent control of her finances and personal life.

Jamie was given temporary control in October. The papers state that Britney "is substantially unable to man-

age ... her financial resources or to resist fraud or undue influence."

They also describe the singer "is unable properly to provide for his or her personal needs for physical health, food, clothing, or shelter."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



## No custody battle, Jodie hopes

**LEGAL** Jodie Sweetin and estranged husband Cody Herpin "are working hard to avoid a protracted custody battle," the actress's lawyer tells people.com

The former Full House star, 26, and Herpin, 31, attended their first joint mediation session this week at an Orange County, Calif., court.

"They're trying to work things out regarding the sharing of their

child," attorney Wilma Presley says. "As far as reconciliation as a couple goes, in family law, you just never know."

Despite recent court drama, "Jodie is doing very well," Presley adds. "She had a very nice Christmas. She had her daughter on Christmas Eve and morning, and so far, the sharing has been smooth."

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## Pink wants to give away ex

**RELATIONSHIP** Pink wants to give her estranged husband away if he marries again, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer has revealed she and Carey Hart have remained close since they separated last year, and she would support him if he ever decides to commit to someone else.

Pink, 29, said: "I told him that I would give him away at his next wedding."

The couple announced they were planning to

divorce in February 2008 after two years of marriage.

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## Hathaway hates weddings

**PEOPLE** Anne Hathaway hates weddings, despite starring as a battling bride in new film, Bride Wars, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actress, who split from former fiancé Raffaello Follieri after he was arrested and jailed for fraud, says, "Weddings have never really been my thing. I really have never thought about it. I just want a good hus-

band ... (but) I don't date that much."

Instead, she would rather skip the wedding day charade in the hope of living a happier life.

The website notes this comes as a shock, as Hathaway, 28, has appeared in a string of wedding films including Rachel Getting Married, The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement.

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